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LETTER DATED 9 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Brčko issued on 5 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Brčko issued on 5 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the fact that a decision has been reached by the Arbitral Tribunal on the ward for the Brčko area.

Under the existing international supervisory regime significant achievements were made. Families of refugees and displaced persons have returned in the hundreds. A multi-ethnic administration, judiciary and police were created. A stable framework is also indispensable for potential investors. Their commitment is urgently required for the economic revitalization of the area.

The European Union reminds the parties to the arbitration - the Federation and the Republika Srpska - that, in accordance with provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords, the Arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding, and the parties shall implement it without delay. Bosnia and Herzegovina's State and Entity leaders reaffirmed at the December 1998 Peace Implementation Conference in Madrid their commitment to respect and implement any further decision by the Arbitrator in 1999.

The European Union calls on the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in neighbouring countries to live up to their commitment and to seize the opportunity to build a self-sustaining peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the benefit of all citizens.